

CLERK: Mr. President, I have no E & R amendments to 630. The first amendment I have to the bill is offered by Senator Vard Johnson.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, on your substitute amendment to the original amendment that you had.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I am actually substituting an amendment which deals with the very same subject that it is simply a question of where the capital construction monies involved are to go. This is the . . . the amendment that we are talking about is an amendment that would add \$200,000 to the capital construction budget for the next fiscal year and then \$366,000 for the fiscal year following the next fiscal year for the purpose of remodelling the first floor of the State Capitol building so that we would have two new hearing rooms. As you probably . . . probably each of you have been visited by Harlan Johnson of my office. Harlan has taken the time to show you the schematic drawings of the hearing rooms that have been on our drawing board for some point in time. I hope that he has explained the hearing room issue to you fully and carefully. But let me go through it again. In 1978 we first renovated space on the first floor and developed hearing rooms. The hearing rooms that we have are the hearing rooms currently used by the Revenue Committee primarily and the Education Committee. I think the kind of comment that we have received on those hearing rooms from the public has just been overwhelmingly supportive. In the main the public is most appreciative of our having decent hearing rooms for the public to attend on bill presentations. Now we have over the long pull been wanting to provide comparable hearing rooms for virtually all of our committees. We have always known, however, that this is a fairly long process to have effected because every hearing room that we add simply costs us money. So what the Executive Board is recommending to the Legislature is this. We are recommending that we actually add \$200,000 to our capital construction budget for the 83-84 fiscal year and then \$366,000 to our capital construction budget for the 84-85 fiscal year for a total of \$566,000. With that money we will be able to remodel the first floor of the State Capitol building in accordance with the little sketch that you have on your desk. This will allow, this in effect will give us two new hearing rooms that can be shared by four to five committees altogether. I think one of the things that everyone of you should be aware of in looking at this matter is the level of attendance by the public